

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 SSC-01 /057 W
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O R 271050Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4535
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO POUCH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0698

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT PO
SUBJECT: SOARES CABINET ANNOUNCED

SUMMARY: OUR TENTATIVE EVALUATION OF THE NEX SOARES CABINET
IS POSITIVE. THE ECONOMIC TEAM, LED BY VITOR CONSTANCIO,
IS STRONG; CDS IS IN WITH FIRST-RANK LEADERS, AND THE
QUALITY IS GENERALLY HIGH.

1. PRIME MINISTER SOARES ON JAN 26 ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF
14 MINISTERS WHO WILL FORM HIS CABINET. THEY INCLUDE:
-- MINISTER OF DEFENSE - COL. FIRMINO MIGUEL (IND)
-- MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, ASSISTANT TO THE
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PRIME MINISTER - DR. ALMEIDA SANTOS (PS)
-- MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANNING - DR. VITOR
CONSTANCIO (PS)
-- MINISTER OF INTERIOR - DR. OLIVEIRA
E SILVA (PS)
-- MINISTER OF JUSTICE - DR. SANTOS PAIS (PS)
-- MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - DR. SA MACHADO (CDS)

-- MINISTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM - DR. RUI PENA (CDS)
-- MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES - DR. LUIS
SAIAS (IND)
-- MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY - ENG. CARLOS
MELANCIA (PS)
-- MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM - DR. BASILIO HORTA
(CDS)
-- MINISTER OF LABOR - MALDONADO GONELHA (PS)
-- MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE - DR. SOTTOMAYOR
CARDIA (PS)
-- MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS - DR. ANTONIO ARNAULT (PS)
-- MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION - ENG.
FERREIRA LIMA (PS)
-- MINISTER OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS - ENG.
SOUSA GOMES (PS).

2. THE CABINET INCLUDES FIVE HOLDOVERS: FIRMINO
MIGUEL, ALMEIDA SANTOS (FROM JUSTICE), MALDONADO GONELHA,
SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA, SOUSA GOMES (FROM PLANNING). THE
ECONOMIC TEAM HEADED BY FINANCE AND PLANNING MINISTER
CONSTANCIO IS TECHNICALLY STRONG AND DEDICATED TO MOVING
PORTUGAL CLOSER TO EUROPE ON THE BASIS OF A MARKET ECONOMY.
FORMER PLANNING MINISTER SOUSA GOMES IS STILL PART OF THE
TEAM BUT IS ON THE PERIPHERY AS HOUSING MINISTER. THE NEW
FOREIGN MINISTER SA MACHADO IS WIDELY RESPECTED FOR HIS
OPPOSITION TO THE SALAZAR/CAETANO REGIME. HE IS ONE OF THE
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FEW CDS MEMBERS WITH BROAD SUPPORT ACROSS THE POLITICAL
SPECTRUM. THE TWO OTHER CDS MINISTERS HORTA AND PENA HOLD
PORTFOLIOS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE CENTER DEMOCRATS.
THE PRESENCE OF HORTA, RANKING ONLY BEHIND FREITAS DO
AMARAL AND AMARO DA COSTA IN THE CDS HIERARCHY, UNDERSCORES
THAT THE CDS IS A FULL-FLEDGED PARTNER IN GOVERNMENT. CONTROL
OF THE COMMERCE MINISTRY, WHICH DEALS WITH MATTERS OF CONCERN
TOOMUCH OF THE CDS NORTHERN CONSTITUENCY, IS A PLUM FOR THE
CDS. GIVING THE CDS THE NEWLY CREATED ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM
MINISTRY IS A FURTHER CONSESSION TO LONG-STANDING CDS
CONCERNS.

3. OUR TENTATIVE EVALUATION OF THE NEW CABINET IS POSITIVE.
THE ECONOMIC TEAM, LED BY CONSTANCIO IS STRONG, THE CDS IS
IN WITH FIRST-RANK LEADERS; AND THE QUALITY IS GENERALLY
HIGH.

4. THE NEW MINISTERS WILL BE SWORN IN JAN 30. SUBCABINET
OFFICIALS WILL BE APPOINTED SHORTLY AS WELL AS MINISTERS OF
STATE FOR MADEIRA AND THE AZORES. IN ANNOUNCING THE CABIENT,
SOARES SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

5. DETAILS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
OKUN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, ECONOMISTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO, (SOARES, MARIO), (CONSTANCIO, VITOR)
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